

VOTE NOTES

Fairfax County Election Officer News

Summer 2013



Dear election officers,

It's been almost eight months since over 2,800 election officers worked the 2012 general election, and I'm still amazed at the size of that undertaking. You all processed **450,000 voters** on Election Day at the 237 precincts we staffed on November 6, 2012. That's just amazing.

To put that in perspective, you helped process **more voters than the entire states of Alaska, Delaware, Hawaii, North Dakota, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming**. I want to offer **my sincere congratulations and appreciation** to each of you for your efforts during the 2012 election. It was your dedication, integrity, and hard work that enabled us to process so many voters and conduct this election.

In our efforts to promote the most efficient and fair elections process possible for the citizens of Fairfax, the **office has been working diligently to address all of the issues brought to light** during the November general election. Thanks to the support of the Electoral Board (of which I am proud to now be serving as secretary), the Board of Supervisors and their Bipartisan Election Process Improvement Commission, and the hard work of our general registrar and staff, we hope to be able to address many of the issues that you brought to our attention last Election Day. As we review and work to implement recommendations made by the commission, we look forward to receiving your feedback and suggestions for making the process even better. Look for more information on these efforts in this issue of *Vote Notes*.

One thing we knew even before last November was that we needed to begin thinking of replacing our aging voting equipment. You will be pleased to know that we have made significant progress in that area and are evaluating a variety of systems with **a goal of implementing a new, fully integrated system by November 2014**. While we are still far away from having a final system chosen, I wanted to let you know that an updated system is in the works.

Finally, as you are aware, we're moving closer to the November 2013 gubernatorial elections. I strongly urge you to consider serving again as an election officer for this General Election on November 5th. **We always need election officers – especially those with language and technical skills** – so please spread the word to your family, friends and neighbors and encourage them to join you in serving at the polls this fall.

Thank you again for your hard work and dedication to our democratic process.

Brian Schoeneman
Secretary
Electoral Board

Save the date!

General and Special Elections, November 5

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS NEWS

News Flash!

**The Fairfax County Electoral Board approved a pay increase for election officers!
Effective November 5, EO compensation will be:**

Election officers \$175 ★ Assistant chiefs: \$200 ★ Chiefs \$250

~~Paper-Ballot~~ "Electronically Scanned Ballot"

Take note! You know those paper ballots? We are now referring to them as "**electronically scanned**" ballots.

The Electoral Board now requires that we **provide every voter with an electronically scanned ballot after they are checked in**, rather than asking which voting method they prefer to use. In November, your precinct will set up only one or two touch-screen (DRE) voting machines, primarily for use by voters with disabilities or who need language assistance. But any **voter who insists on using a DRE should be allowed to do so.**

Why the change? The state has mandated that we move from touch-screen machines to electronically scanned ballots to improve verifiability of election results, and to ensure that the DREs remain available until new equipment is purchased.

If a voter asks why we aren't offering touch-screen machines, explain to them:

The touch-screen machines are intended for voters who need language assistance or have a disability. Although the county has allowed all voters to use the touch-screen machines in the past, we are losing a number of our touch-screen machines due to their age. Over the next few years, the county will implement a new voting system using state-of-the-art optical scanning technology. For these reasons, **we are encouraging voters to become familiar with the electronically scanned ballots if they do not need to use the touch-screens to vote.**

Photo IDs **NOT** Required!

Virginia **currently does not require a photo ID** to vote! When you ask for an ID, **do not ask for a "photo" ID.** This law is scheduled to change next year, and we'll keep you informed.

Check your ID chart to see what documentation is valid as a voter ID. For more information and the ID chart visit the [State Board of Elections website](#).

Which Address?

When you ask a voter's address, you are **asking for their current residence address.** It does not need to match the address on their driver's license.

However, if their residence address differs from the address in the pollbook, then the voter needs to complete a voter registration form to update their voter record. Call the chief!

The Dad Is Not His Son

If after locating a voter in the EPB you see two or more people with the same or very similar name at the same residence, **check the birthdate and look for "Jr." or other suffix before checking in the voter.** *Double-check to be sure you're processing the right voter!*

Get Refreshed

Before the next election refresh your memory by [watching videos](#) on the [Fairfax County elections website](#) about the set-up and use of EPBs and voting equipment. Click "working at the polls." **There are also videos** about serving as an election officer and the voting process.

Our best election officers are referrals from YOU!

Election Officers Honored



Election officers were honored with a special reception at the Government Center, hosted by the Office of Elections and attended by the Electoral Board and Board of Supervisors members and Chairman Sharon Bulova. Special recognition and appreciation were given to 52 election officers who have served in more than **40 elections**, and to several hundred who have served in at least **20 elections**.

Pictured are Hunter Mill District election officers with dignitaries. [Click here to see all the photos from the evening.](#)

Electoral Board Changes

We send a heartfelt thanks and **farewell to Carol Ann Coryell**, who resigned from the Electoral Board in June. Ms. Coryell served on the board for 10 years, at times as chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary. She will be greatly missed.

We welcome the two new members of the Electoral Board. **Brian Schoeneman** was appointed for a three-year term as a Republican representative, replacing Hans von Spakovsky, whose term expired on February 28, 2013. Mr. Schoeneman is the political and legislative director of the Seafarers International Union of North America, as well as director and general counsel of the Board of Directors of Virginia Line Media LLC.

Stephen Hunt was appointed as a Republican representative to fill Ms. Coryell's term as vice-chairman. Retired from the U.S. Navy, Mr. Hunt works as an analyst and team lead for several defense customers. He has served as a party poll watcher, candidate, elected official, and election officer and rover. Prior to the Electoral Board, Mr. Hunt served as an at-large member of the Fairfax County School Board from 2004 to 2007.



Electoral Board Chairman Seth Stark presents a certificate of appreciation to Carol Ann Coryell. Brian Schoeneman follows up with a bouquet.

OFFICE OF ELECTIONS NEWS

Precinct and Polling Place Changes

Mason District:

- **# 509 Plaza**- New precinct carved out of #520 Skyline. Polling place is Skyline Plaza, 3703 South George Mason Drive.

Mount Vernon District:

- **# 627 Woodlawn** – Polling place changed to Knights of Columbus #5998, 8592 Richmond Highway.
- **# 628 Laurel Hill** – Polling place changed to Laurel Hill Elementary School, 8390 Laurel Crest Drive.
- **# 629 South County** – Polling place changed to South County High School, 8501 Silverbrook Road.
- **# 623 Alban** and **# 626 Saratoga** – Boundary adjustment only; no polling place change.

Sully District:

- **# 904 Stonecroft** – Previously **Dulles**. New polling place: Cub Run Recreational Center, 4630 Stonecroft Boulevard.

CAP “Closers” Needed

The Central Absentee Precinct (**CAP**) is looking for three **“closers” to assist the chief election officers in closing operations on election night**, November 5th. The closers will provide assistance with paperwork, especially the Statement of Results. Individuals with strong backgrounds in successfully closing election night operations are sought. Experience in accounting is preferred, but not required. If available to help with this important task, please contact Bill Norton at william.norton@fairfaxcounty.gov, or 703-324-7739.

Workshops, Training

Workshops will be available this fall for **additional instruction and practice on the EPB and SOR**. Watch for schedules on the elections website, then sign up. **Training schedules are posted on the website as well.**

Available?

We have **begun to email EOs**, asking if you will be **available to serve** as an election officer for the November election. Please be sure that your ISP and email system recognize “elect@fairfaxcounty.gov” so you will receive our messages. **AND please reply to the FIRST email you receive!** (This saves us so much time.) If you have any questions, contact the Office of Elections: elect@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4735.

Corporate Partnerships

Does your company have a program that **allows employees to take paid time off for community service?** (Election officers may forego their payment and **volunteer** their service if needed to comply with company policy.) If so, the **Electoral Board would like to partner with your employer** to encourage its employees to participate in the electoral process by serving as election officers.

Please call 703-324-4735 to let us know if your company has such a policy, or if you would like your company to participate in the program.

Best Practices Award

The Office of Elections **received the 2013 “Best Practices” award from NACRC** (National Association of County Recorders, Election Officials and Clerks) for **our Election Day emergency preparedness plan**.

Working with the county’s Office of Emergency Management and other county agencies, the Office of Elections established **an emergency management command center** in a secure location within the Government Center that could, if needed, **become fully activated immediately should activities or a natural disaster disrupt the voting process**. This effort included setting up a call center to handle a large volume of calls from voters, as well as critical calls from election officers who needed technical or registration support. Additionally, an alternative, back-up location was identified outside the Government Center location in case the building had to be evacuated. **The system will be activated for every general election.**

We hope that through NACRC publicity about the award, our efforts will encourage other counties to embark on a project to create Election Day emergency preparedness plans.

Bipartisan Election Commission Report

Last fall, the Board of Supervisors appointed a 26-member Bipartisan Election Process Improvement Commission to look into some of the problems encountered by voters and election officers during the 2012 general election, including long lines. In March the commission released its report offering over 50 recommendations, including those listed below. The Office of Elections is considering the recommendations to determine which may be implemented.

- Use electronic pollbooks at all precincts.
- Avoid parent-teacher conferences on Election Day.
- Encourage voters to use electronically scanned ballots, and reserve touch-screen machines for voters with disabilities.
- Enable dedicated phone lines for chiefs to use to reach the Office of Elections.
- Purchase new voting equipment to modernize and improve the voting process.
- Consider raising election officers' pay and increasing the number of rovers.

The Commission included suggestions that **you as election officers and chiefs can do in your precincts:**

- Use the term "electronically scanned" ballots, not "paper" ballots.
- Configure voter lines and precinct room layout for maximum efficiency.
- Meet with EOs the night before the election to set up, and for a quick review of duties.
- Post maps outside rooms of co-located precincts.
- Be sensitive to and assist voters with disabilities and those with limited English skills.

[Read the full report.](#)

Election Dates and Deadlines

- **General Election:** November 5, 2013.
- **Deadline to register to vote:** October 15, 5:00 p.m.
- **Last date to apply for an absentee ballot by mail:** October 29, 5:00 p.m.
- **Last date to return an absentee ballot:** November 5 (Election Day), 7:00 p.m.
- **In-person absentee voting:** ([click here for schedules](#))

Fairfax County Government Center, suite 323: September 20 — November 2

Vote weekdays, except October 14 Columbus Day (the office is closed)

Vote Saturdays, September 28 — November 2

Satellite voting locations: October 15 — November 2; daily except Sundays

Additional Saturdays: September 28, October 5, October 12.

Franconia Gov't Cntr

6121 Franconia Rd., Alexandria

Dolley Madison Library

1244 Oak Ridge Ave., McLean

West Springfield Gov't Cntr

6140 Rolling Rd., Springfield

Sully District Gov't Cntr

4900 Stonecroft Blvd., Chantilly

Mason Gov't Center

6507 Columbia Pike, Annandale

Mount Vernon Gov't Cntr

2511 Parkers Ln., Alexandria

North County Human Services Bldg.

1850 Cameron Glen Dr., Reston

Spread the Word!

You can help!

Help us get the word out that **election officers are needed, particularly bilingual officers**. You are our best ambassadors! Election officers must be registered voters in Virginia, and complete required training and forms. Those interested in serving may **apply online** on the Office of Elections website.



New! Register to Vote & Update Data Online

Virginia residents with a DMV ID may now submit **voter registration applications** and **update their voter registration data online!** Without a DMV ID, voters can complete an application online, then print, sign and mail.

Click here to visit the Virginia State Board of Elections website for more information and to complete the form.

Organize a Voter Registration Drive

You or your organization may **conduct a voter registration drive in your community**. We will give you advice for planning a successful drive and training volunteers, and provide voter registration material in Spanish and English. Call us: 703-222-0776. All individuals or organizations **requesting 25 or more voter registration applications must register and complete training certified by the State Board of Elections**.

Click here for more information.

Help Us Get the Word Out

Send us the contact information for **newsletters issued by your civic or service organizations** and **we will submit information** about registration, absentee voting, and serving as an election officer.

Email Pat Ferguson at Patricia.Ferguson@fairfaxcounty.gov. **Subject:** "Newsletter"

Cancellations

If, for whatever reason, **you are unable to serve as an election officer after having accepted an assignment**, please notify the Office of Elections **as soon as possible** at 703-324-4735. Even if you notify your chief, you must notify the Office of Elections.

News You Can Use

NewsWire is a service provided by Fairfax County **to keep you up-to-date** on news that affects you, your family and your community. It is the easiest way to find out what is going on in your county, and it only takes a couple of minutes to sign up.

Subscribe here.

Everything Elections

Fairfax County: www.fairfaxcounty.gov/elections

State Board of Elections: www.sbe.virginia.gov

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Fairfax, VA 22035
703-324-4735
General Registrar: 703-222-0776



To request reasonable ADA and language accommodations, contact the Office of Elections:
703-324-4735 TTY: 711 (Virginia Relay)
Fax: 703-324-4706
General Registrar: 703-222-0776